



PAPN TEXAS

PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES OF TEXAS



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In this edition, our president shares highlights from the recent NPO Luncheon at the AANP conference, reflecting on national collaboration and growth. We honor the legacy of a beloved member whose contributions continue to shape our community. You'll also find a call to action to support those affected by the Kerr County flood, results from our recent election, current open leadership roles, legislative updates, and the revised Board of Directors. Thank you for staying engaged and helping us move forward together.

-Amy Owens Horelica, Communications Chair



PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) is the national organization representing nurse practitioners of all specialties, advocating for their role in delivering high-quality, accessible, and patient-centered care. In June, I had the opportunity to attend the Nurse Practitioner Organization (NPO) Luncheon at AANP's 2025 National Conference in San Diego, representing PAPN Texas.

The NPO is a collaborative network of state-based NP organizations that partner with AANP to align advocacy priorities, share research, and strengthen state-level legislative efforts. PAPN Texas's involvement ensures we remain connected to national strategies and equipped with the tools to advance NP practice in Texas.

Why this matters:

As Texas NPs continue to face barriers—especially following the failure of Schedule II prescribing and delegation removal bills this legislative session—our ability to draw from national research and advocacy is essential. This meeting offered insight into the evidence and messaging strategies that are effectively supporting Full Practice Authority (FPA) across the country.

Key Takeaways:

- **Strong Evidence Supports NP Practice:**
New high-quality studies confirm that FPA is associated with positive patient outcomes, improved provider supply, and no increase in malpractice or opioid-related risks. These findings reinforce the safety and effectiveness of NP-led care.
- **Addressing Opposition with Facts:**
AANP continues to refute misleading studies like the "Hattiesburg Study," which has been widely used to argue against FPA despite serious methodological flaws. The emphasis remains on redirecting attention to systematic reviews and large-scale evidence that more accurately reflect NP impact.
- **Resources for You:**
 - ask.aanp.org – A centralized platform to access clinical, policy, and membership-related information.
 - Report Now Form – Submit concerns about misinformation, policy obstacles, or media bias affecting NPs.

Your engagement as a member of PAPN Texas is vital. By staying informed and united, we can continue to advocate for meaningful change and ensure NPs in our state have the authority and support needed to practice to the full extent of their training.

Warm regards,
Lisa Anderson, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC
President, Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses (PAPN) Texas
Lisa.Anderson@papntexas.com



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

Donna Rolin, PHD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC

Dr. Donna Rolin, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC, was a pioneering leader in psychiatric nursing, education, and community mental health. As Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, she shaped the future of mental health care through visionary curriculum development and interdisciplinary collaboration. Under her leadership, the program achieved a 100% board certification pass rate since its inception—an extraordinary accomplishment reflecting her commitment to excellence. Dr. Rolin secured millions in federal and state grant funding to support integrated behavioral health training, especially for underserved communities, and co-directed several programs that advanced addiction recovery, cultural competence, and team-based care.



Beyond academia, Dr. Rolin brought deep clinical expertise to her work in inpatient, outpatient, forensic, and long-term care settings. She was a tireless advocate for individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and cognitive impairments. Her research and presentations on topics such as medication adherence, psychopharmacology, DSM-5 changes, and holistic wellness interventions made her a sought-after thought leader. She also mentored students through innovative service-learning programs, providing mental health care to survivors of trauma, refugees, and marginalized populations with compassion and cultural sensitivity. Her dedication extended to national and local leadership roles, including serving on the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Board and the Austin Child Guidance Center Board.

Dr. Rolin's passing is a profound loss to the nursing, academic, and mental health communities. Her legacy of scholarship, mentorship, and advocacy leaves an enduring impact on the field of psychiatric nursing and the countless lives she uplifted through her teaching, care, and leadership. She will be deeply missed not only for her remarkable accomplishments but for the warmth, wisdom, and humanity she brought to all who had the privilege to know and work with her.

CALL TO ACTION

Dear PAPN Texas Members:

The tragic Kerr County flood on July 4th has left survivors, families, and frontline responders facing immense trauma. The need for psychiatric care is urgent, yet too great for any one clinician to meet alone.

To address this crisis, we propose that we join together as PAPN Texas members to form a coordinated, voluntary network of PMHNPs willing to provide care—primarily via telehealth—to those affected. By organizing centrally, we can provide one resource name (PAPN Texas) for publication and promotion by newspapers, news stations, non-profits and others to inform the flood victim community. This will maximize our reach and fill a critical gap in care.

We are forming two groups:

1. PMHNPs ready to practice (with EHR, prescriptive authority, and a delegating physician).
2. PMHNPs not yet set up but willing to evaluate and treat flood-related mental health needs. If response is strong, we'll explore pathways to support those in Group 2 with infrastructure and delegation.

While organizations like BetterHelp and Teladoc are offering free services for three months, there is no coordinated psychiatric response offering both medication management and psychotherapy. We can change that—together.

If you're interested, please reply to Sherry.Grogan@PAPNTexas.org with:

- Your name
- Brief bio, including any specialty such as pedi, peripartum, trauma, etc
- Telehealth availability
- Insurance participation
- Willingness to offer pro bono care (and for how long)
- Any other relevant details

Thank you for your compassion and your commitment to serving Texans in need.

Sherry Grogan, APRN, PMHNP-BC
Past President, Private Practice Roundtable Moderator



LEADERSHIP UPDATE



We're excited to share important updates following our recent bylaws vote—changes aimed at streamlining our leadership structure and expanding engagement opportunities.

One of the key changes was moving from six Regional Representatives to four Members-at-Large, allowing for broader representation and collaboration. Please join us in welcoming our newly elected Members-at-Large:

- Stella Logan (term ending 2027)
- Michelle Stewart (term ending 2026)
- Becky Spencer (term ending 2027)
- Toni Brent (term ending 2026)

Another bylaws change included eliminating the Vice President position and moving forward with a President-Elect role to support continuity in leadership. We are proud to announce Michelle Hext as our new President-Elect.

We also recognize Becky Spencer for her continued dedication—she will serve both as a Member-at-Large and on the Legislative Committee.

We currently have two exciting leadership opportunities open:

- Conference/Education Committee Chair – perfect for someone passionate about planning events and advancing educational programming
- Nominations Committee Chair – a vital role in helping shape our future leadership by managing the nominations and election process

If you have an interest in either position, we'd love to hear from you. Your time and talent are what keep our organization thriving!

Interested? Please contact us at nominations@papntexas.org.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Governor Greg Abbott recently vetoed Senate Bill 268, a piece of legislation that would have required complaints against healthcare practitioners to be forwarded exclusively to the licensing board that issued the practitioner's credentials. In his veto proclamation, Governor Abbott expressed concern that this requirement could unintentionally hinder the complaint process.

"The Medical Board, for example, should not be prohibited from issuing a cease-and-desist order for unlicensed medical practice simply because the specific practice at issue is also regulated by another board," Abbott noted.

We did successfully helped block several harmful bills that would have negatively impacted advanced practice nursing and the way we deliver care. These wins are a testament to the importance of unified advocacy and the tireless work of our members.

If you're passionate about shaping the future of healthcare and want to play a direct role in protecting our profession, stay tuned—TNP will soon be announcing its Call for Legislative Ambassadors. This is your opportunity to be a voice for change and contribute meaningfully to our ongoing advocacy efforts.



First Year PMHNP Support

The 1st Year PMHNP Support Group meets by Zoom teleconferencing on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The general goals of the group are to: 1) provide support and encouragement for new PMHNPs, 2) discuss reasonable pay and workplace conditions, and 3) to network with colleagues.

ONGOING SUPPORT



Private Practice Support

Whether you're just starting to think about private practice or looking to scale, you're welcome here. Join us every third Thursday for real strategies, valuable insights, and supportive connection. No matter where you are in the journey, you don't have to do it alone!

Case Consultation

Case consultations are back and now happening every fourth Tuesday of the month!

Bring your urgent cases for insightful group discussion, and dive into relevant journal club articles with fellow professionals. It's a space for collaborative learning, fresh perspectives, and elevating patient care together.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board Officers

President - Lisa Anderson
Past President - Sherry Grogan
President Elect - Michelle Hext
Secretary - Kaylie Dozier Joachim
Treasurer - Linzi Leighton

For more details or to express interest
contact us at nominations@papntexas.org

Members At Large

Stella Logan, term ending 2027
Michelle Stewart, Term ending 2026
Becky Spencer, Term ending 2027
Toni Brent, Term ending 2026

Board Appointed Positions

Case Consultation Chair - Wanda Hilliard
Communications Committee Chair - Amy Owens Horelica
Conference Committee Chair - **OPEN**
First Year Practice Group Chair - Justin Cullers
Legislative Chairs - Becky Spencer
Membership Committee Chair - Martina Gallagher
Nominations Committee Chair - **OPEN**
Private Practice Group Chairs - Sherry Grogan
Student Representative - Katie Hanel

